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■ INSIDE**SEEKING SNOW ANGELS**

Snow Angels are in demand for this winter to help seniors and handicapped to clear snow from sidewalks. Pelham Care will co-ordinate the program of matching volunteers with those who qualify for assistance.

See Page 9

See Inside:

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■ GOLDEN HELMETS: Performance at Biketoberfest a prelude to today's Niagara Regional Exhibition show

The OPP's best on two wheels

MARYANNE FIRTH
PelhamNEWS Staff

PELHAM — There was an unmistakable rumble travelling through Pelham week.

Hundreds of bikers gathered for the kickoff event to the eighth annual Fenwick Lions Club Biketoberfest — the Ride of the Flags led by the distinguished Ontario Provincial Police Golden Helmets Precision Motorcycle Team.

The team, which consists of 19 officers and a civilian mechanic, gathered at Centennial Park before heading off to meet the rest of the participating bikes at the original Clare's Cycle on Regional Rd. 20.

The group of riders, carrying various club flags, then headed to Niagara Central Airport, where the OPP group put on a show for the crowd.

Ride master Lise Grenier said her team enjoys performing in this part of the province, and has participated in Biketoberfest in the past.

Grenier said the group enjoys performing for other bikers because the crowd gains a real appreciation for the manoeuvres they're able to accomplish.

Overall, the Golden Helmets are about promoting bike safety, while showing the crowd their bike-handling skills, she said.

Biketoberfest continued at



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Members of the Ontario Provincial Police Golden Helmets Precision Motorcycle Team headed themselves last Friday to lead the Ride of the Flags, kicking off the Fenwick Lions Club Biketoberfest.

Centennial Park in Fenwick, with vendors, a show and shine, food and live entertainment from local

band More Bad News and the Horns from Hell.

The event, which is a major fund-

raiser for the Lions Club, included a raffle for a 2010 Harley-Davidson FLHX Street Glide.

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upfront

■ ELECTION: Three seek two seats in Ward 3

Dave Yager creates race in Pelham Ward 3

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

PELHAM — Dave Yager's entry into the civic election created a race in Pelham's Ward 3.

"I couldn't let it go without a contest," said Yager.

He filed his papers the day before the Sept. 10 nomination deadline. He became the third candidate in the two-seat ward. Until then, incumbents John Durley and Peter Papp faced a challenge.

Yager said he thought

about running for town council before. However, it was only now his work ethic at his business, Niagara Yearbook Services, and his family's support that allowed him to do it.

"I'll give it a shot and see what happens," he said. "I'm a 'see it through to the end'

"If I tell you I'm going to

the type of guy."

The 62-year-old has lived in Pelham most of his life. His parents ran the Green Leaf Inn restaurant in Fenwick.

He has a long history of volunteering in local organizations including the Royal Canadian Legion, Pelham minor ball, Fenwick softball, and the chair of the sports and leisure committee.

Through the sports council, he helped to improve North Pelham, Harold Black and other parks.

"If I tell you I'm going to

do something, I do my level best to do it."

There are a number of issues in town, Yager said. The Rice Rd. needs to be dealt with; it has been hanging around far too long," he said, about 32 acres of land the town bought and has yet to either sell or develop.

Yager said there is a need to move the town hall load on the town and be aware of what the town can afford.

"You live in a small community and can't expect Toronto style services," he

said.

There is need to attract more small businesses to Pelham, he said.

He would like to see more in town for seniors.

The bandshell concerts in the summer were great,

he said, but there needs to be something similar in the winter for seniors. The town needs to find ways to get seniors more involved in providing input.

As far as Ward 3 issues go, he understands there are some unresolved land use issues facing individuals.

"I'm glad to see the work being done on Haist St. It's long overdue," he said about reconstruction of Haist just off of his Strattonona Dr. home.

Yager said he is not critical of previous Pelham councils have done.

"I'm offering to listen, to learn what you want and do what I can to help."

He can be reached at 905-852-6532 or dave.yager@hotmail.com

wccampbell@wellandtribune.ca

■ ELECTION: Niagara Catholic District School Board

Catholic priest wants to get further involved in school issues

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

PELHAM — Rev. Paul MacNeil had to get permission to run for the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

The Catholic priest asked his employer, the Diocese of St. Catharines, if he could.

"They seemed delighted I asked," said the pastor of St. Ann's Catholic Church in Fenwick.

"I have always been involved in Catholic education since I became a priest," he said.

For the past year, he has worked with school board

staff as an advisor in faith formation. He's stepped out of that role to run.

"It's important to have a Catholic priest on a Catholic school board," he said. "The last I think was Father (Ken) Burns who was chair of the board."

MacNeil, 44, said the parish workload at St. Ann's is light enough as to allow him to be trustee.

He said he realizes the area he would represent is large. It covers Pelham, Lincoln, West Lincoln and Fenwick, but he is familiar with it.

Through his work on the board faith formation proj-

ect, he visited more than half the schools in board including Blessed Trinity Secondary School in Grimsby. He also served at St. Helen's Catholic Church in Vineland.

MacNeil grew up in St. Catharines attending Porter Gaudet and St. Anthony's Catholic schools as well as Denis Morris secondary school.

He took philosophy at McMaster University and a university in Belgium.

For his training in the priesthood, he went to Christ the King seminar in Buffalo.

Among issues he sees facing the school board is one

of inclusiveness. People from different cultures are coming into the schools and adjustments have to be made.

"It's important how we manage it, and bring it in line with our Catholic identity," he said.

MacNeil said the board will have to be ready to defend the constitutionality of Catholic education in Ontario. It could face challenges.

In the last provincial election, the issue of extending public support to other faith schools was raised.

MacNeil said he could support an extension of public support to other

faith schools. It may take some working out with smaller faith groups such as Buddhists, he said.

"We're a faith filled country," and he saw a bigger picture with a move to completely secularize education.

Working with parents, he said trustees must deal with practical matters of education.

"Bullying seems to come

up" among other day-to-day problems.

MacNeil has served in parishes in Vineland, St. Catharines, and Niagara Falls and spent a year as a mediator for auto insurance claims.

A mediator learns skills in conflict resolution especially after hearing about conflicts in 450 accidents, he said.

Three candidates are seeking the Catholic board seat: MacNeil, Gary Crole and Terry Hublers.

MacNeil can be reached at macneil65@gmail.com.

wccampbell@wellandtribune.ca

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■ **BIKETOFEST:** More than 4,000 attend Pelham fundraiser



Motorcycle enthusiasts from near and far crowded into Centennial Park in Fenwick last weekend to admire both new and vintage motorcycles lined up through the park for the eighth annual Biketoberfest. At right, Bruce Bissell, a member of the Fabulous Fenwick Lions, was impressed with the turnout, which he expected exceeds the 4,000 who attended last year. Each year the event is getting bigger.



ALLEN BENNER Staff Photo

Fenwick Lions event another roaring success

ALLAN BENNER
PelhamNEWS Staff

PELHAM — Bruce Bissell couldn't believe the number of motorcycles that rolled into Centennial Park, Saturday.

Bissell recalled the first time Biketoberfest was held on a cold fall day eight years ago. It was "only just an opportunity to convince his fellow Fabulous Fenwick Lions that the event would be worthwhile."

Despite the weather that year, "500 people showed up

and we had a great time."

The event has grown a little each year, but to him, this year attendance was "unbelievable." While Bissell didn't know precisely how many people were at the park, "it's more than last year, I know that. It's huge."

And last year, as many as

4,000 people attended the

Even the number of vendors doubled to 32 from a total of 16 last year, "and they all want to come back next year."

"I've been around talking to them to see how they're doing, and they say this is the best event they've ever been to," Bissell said.

So many people attended that the Fonthill Lions arrived to add their support along with the Lionsess groups from both clubs.

Six years its inception Biketoberfest has brought in about \$200,000 for Lions Club charities, including Lions Camp Dorest, the Welland Hospital Foundation, Lions Foundation Of Canada and

community projects.

One major attraction was the 1961 Honda 750cc Davidson motorcycle. The Lions Club members have spent the past few months selling \$20 tickets for the motorcycle worth about \$27,000, along with a second prize of \$1,000 and a \$500 third prize.

Selling those tickets wasn't easy.

"It's a lot of money for anybody. We're going through hard times with everything," Bissell said, referring to the

tickets that go for \$20 each.

However, he was impressed with the generosity the community has shown while helping charities at the same time.

"These people are unreal, the way they support us," he said. "It's turned into a real success."

"I'm proud of it, I know that."

Ultimately, the event is intended to help people, such Faith Mepham. The Lions provided her with a special skills dog two years

ago named Bronwyn, and the black Lab has made a huge difference in her life.

"She's awesome," said Mepham, who's confined to a motorized wheelchair.

With Bronwyn's help, she said she has "a lot more freedom."

Mepham and Bronwyn were invited to Biketoberfest to draw the winning tickets for the motorcycle.

Welland resident Garth Labelle won the motorcycle.

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Ken Kayman
PUBLISHER, GENERAL MANAGER
Wayne Campbell, smok

comment

■ perspective



Wayne Campbell
EDITOR

Why the public is turning off

Federal and provincial politicians have returned to Parliament Hill and Queen's Park.

They tell us they spent all summer talking to their constituents to get the feeling of their ridings about the important issues facing the province or nation. They said they received important insights they will use to make better decisions.

I sure they did and they will.

However, a curious thing happens when you ask them about what they learned: To my continuing amazement, their constituents speak in the same "talking points" that the spin doctors hand the politicians to repeat.

Conservative MPs talked to people who were tough on crime, disliked the gun registry, loved big spending on fifth generation fighter planes and so on.

Liberal members seemed to have only talked to people who were disappointed in the Conservative government's performance, who longed for a change. However, apparently those constituents didn't suggest any definitely policies to pursue.

New Democrats meanwhile shared hamburgers with the unemployed, underemployed and marginalized. They saw nothing but a nation in distress with no where to go.

It was this unbelievable spin doctoring that is turning people off to politics. We're sure when MPs and MPPs sit down in their closed door caucuses they will not repeat the spin.

Before Thanksgiving they will talk turkey about what they really heard from their constituents. They will talk about what people told them they wanted and what they didn't. Unfortunately, those same people will shake their heads over what they hear those same MPs and MPPs say in public.

Unless people actually feel connected to their members, they will continue to drift away.

■ PUMPKIN SEASON



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo
Dan DeVries cleans pumpkins at DeVries Fruit Farm in Fenwick. DeVries said pumpkins are about three weeks early for harvesting and are in good condition. DeVries, which this year opened a new outlet at its Camboro Rd. farm in downtown Fenwick, is also selling apples a few weeks early. The new outlet will allow the farm to sell all year round, rather than just in season from a fruit stand.

Benjamin Moore

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■ CLEANUP DAY



ALLAN BENNER Staff Photo

Fifteen-year-old Alexis Cadieux, left, and Janessa Copfer, 15, both students at E.L. Crossley Secondary School, were two of about 15 people who volunteered to help clean up the streets of downtown Pelham Saturday morning during the Pelham Communities in Bloom participation day. Each fall and spring the committee holds participation days to encourage residents to think about their role in keeping the town beautiful.

New meaning for childhood fables

When wading through the words of pundits and the babble of political posturing, I can't help but think of some of the simple truths we learned as children.



David Suzuki

Remember those stories from Aesop, Hans Christian Andersen and the Grimm brothers that enthralled us while imparting powerful messages? Two childhood fables seem particularly important today.

Once upon a time, a couple owned a goose that laid a golden egg every day. They became very rich but were not content with a single egg a day. In their greed, they killed the goose to get at the eggs inside.

Of course, they found the goose had guts like any other goose and they ended up with nothing.

Then there was the tale of the stick while working on a *Nature of Thriving* program on the destruction of the Amazon rainforest. In the 1980s, Brazil's government encouraged people to move to the Amazon to make a living or a fortune.

"Land without people for people without land" was how the government promoted it.

And so one of the largest, most complex and irreplaceable ecosystems on the planet has been logged, flooded, mined and burned for decades as Brazilians seek their fabled El Dorado, the city of gold.

But, as in the fairy tale about the goose, El Dorado is the forest, not the resources being exploited by destroying it.

Many see the destructive activities in South America as a response to poverty. If that's true, what's our excuse?

In North America, we have demolished the bulk of our original prairies through unsustainable practices of clear-cut logging. Across the country, one logging community after another has gone from boom to bust as forests have been cut down.

■ SENIORS: Children's Safety Village setting

Safety Day gives seniors tips on avoiding Internet scams

ALLAN BENNER
Pelham News Staff

When many senior citizens were young, they didn't need to worry about scammers.

But then, a handshake meant something when a salesman came to the door, and there were no computers that savvy criminals can use to steal personal information.

Times have changed.

Niagara Region Police Const. John DiMartile was one of several emergency service providers who discussed safety with about a dozen seniors during the senior citizens advisory committee's Senior Safety Day at the Niagara Region Children's Safety Village on Saturday.

"It's an unfortunate fact. A

lot of people grew up in times when you just left your doors open. As much as it pains me to say it, you should lock your door," DiMartile said after the roundtable discussion.

Besides ensuring their homes are secure, DiMartile also shared a few Internet safety tips with the seniors.

"Not everyone is savvy enough to take your personal information, but some people are smart enough to do on your computer," he said, adding that too many people, including seniors, have fallen prey to Internet-based scams in the past.

Seniors were advised that when someone comes to the front door, they should not be let into the house nor have any documents signed.

"Unfortunately, a handshake doesn't mean the same thing as it used to."

DiMartile described his students as "very inquisitive."

The seniors even had a few tips on coping with the worst-case scenarios, thanks to Niagara Region's Be Disaster Ready program.

Darby Pierson, program manager for Niagara's regional emergency planning department, said the program was designed to teach children how to prepare for an emergency, but the region is hoping to expand the program to include seniors.

"It's not just a kid's message, it's for everyone."

Pierson said the older audience was "very enthusiastic" about the program.

Many of the seniors, she added, have already coped with natural disasters in their lifetimes, but they were excited to learn about new such new devices as flashlights and radios that work by turning a crank rather than requiring batteries.

The seniors heard from Niagara Emergency Medical Service paramedic Denise

Mazza who explained using the 911 service, and what they can do to assist emergency responders such as keeping a list of any medications they are taking.

Mazza also gave the seniors a few tips on how to avoid needing to call an ambulance in the first place.

The seniors learned the importance of smoke alarms as well as other advice about fire prevention from West Lincoln firefighter Eric

Weaver.

Based on the success of the seniors safety day, Safety Village executive director Shirley Cordiner said it's something she might be doing on a regular basis.

"The village will likely be looking at starting this one day a month for seniors," she said. "The feedback is positive and I think we can help seniors."

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ALLAN BENNER Staff photo
West Lincoln firefighter Eric Weaver, left, stresses the importance of emergency preparedness at a Senior Safety Day session Saturday at the Niagara Region Children's Safety Village.

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ART: Pair sharing space in display

Arctic conditions at Fonthill library

KAESHA FORAND
PelhamNEWS Staff

The artwork of Yolanda Varga Davis is giving the Fonthill library an Arctic feeling.

The Fonthill artist has 25 pieces of art on display at the library, and is sharing space with William Ferguson of Hamilton, who has 10 pieces of art featuring black thread on colorful paper and canvas backgrounds.

Varga Davis paints with watercolours. Her exhibit features scenery from her last two trips to Alaska.

She prefers to work with watercolours, but does work with other mediums on occasion. She has participated in Trillium workshops, working

with international professionals, artists, and in painting tours in Ireland and France with Gery Poley of Sheridan College.

Varga Davis hasn't been an artist her entire life. She was born in Hungary and moved to Montreal where she worked at an engineering and construction firm. At age 40, she decided to change professions and became an artist.

She has two or three solo shows in southern Ontario every year. She sells her paintings for \$1,000 for large framed paintings, \$450 for small framed paintings, and \$100 for small paintings. She has won numerous awards and displayed her art in group exhibitions across Canada. She went to Alaska four

years ago and again last August. She painted her displays while on a cruise ship or when she painted on pictures.

"I was full of new interest and I painted on the boat," she said. "I painted all the scenery, some people and ports."

Yolande Ferguson and Varga Davis exhibit runs to Sept. 30. A meet-the-artist afternoon is Saturday at the library from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Local Content Like No Other
PelhamNEWS



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo
Fonthill artist Yolanda Varga Davis stands by her paintings of Alaska, including one at right of a northern lights she painted at 2 a.m. during a cruise. Her art is on display until Sept. 30 with Hamilton's William Ferguson at the Fonthill library.

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COUNCIL: Concern for safety of area children

Resident wants to end speed on Foss Rd.

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNews Staff

PELHAM — Dean Swick wants to see an end to Foss Rd. serving as a fast link between Welland and Regional Rd. 24.

The resident of Foss at Poth St. has had enough of cars and trucks flying past his driveway.

They hit at least 85 kilometers per hour in what's supposed to be a 60 km/hr zone, he told town council Monday.

"I need your help," he told councillors.

During the four years he has lived on Foss he has seen eight accidents.

"The most recent getting hit himself while pulling into his driveway, two cars taking out hydro poles, two more flipping into the road's deep ditches, two cars colliding at Foss and Poth, and another striking a tree, he

said as he ran down a list for councillors.

The family cat was killed by a passing car, Swick said.

He and his wife are worried about the safety of his three young children when they go out to the road as well as those of children of neighbours along the road.

Swick described how a police officer set up radar to watch the road for an hour. He saw a truck driver do another drive past 113 km/h, another driver doing 111, a third 80 km and a 90-year-old woman going 97, who had to be chased down.

The officer apologized for thinking "I was exaggerating about speeding," he said.

"The last time I avoided getting hit myself while pulling into his driveway, two cars taking out hydro poles, two more flipping into the road's deep ditches, two cars colliding at Foss and Poth, and another striking a tree, he

said as he ran down a list for councillors.

The town doesn't have a parking bylaw for the area police could refer to.

Specifically Swick asked town council to increase police patrols, help educate people on the presence of children in the area, and put up stop signs and cameras along Foss Rd.

"It isn't just about Foss Rd., you have the same problem along Sumbler and Chandler Roads," he said.

All three serve as clear links between South Pelham St. In Welland and Regional Rd. 24 at the west end of the town.

Ward 1 Coun. Debbie Urbonavicius, a member of the Pelham Community Policing Committee, said the committee would look into it.

Community and infrastructure director Kelly Walsh said staff would look at the area. It would use stop sign guidelines as well as the it to the rural roads study. Staff will begin to reach back to community and area they can help the Foss Rd. residents.

"As you have just seen setting the speed limit at 60, doesn't mean they will drive at 60," said Walsh.

There was a lot of fast moving traffic along the road.

Ward 3 Coun. John Durley similarly toured it and saw near misses.

"There are no one but we've obviously hurt many in the time to take action before someone is," he said.

"We have long stretches of road wide open from the Welland boundary to the Fenwick boundary," he said.

Urbonavicius suggested putting up a traffic count that could measure numbers and speeds to accumulate information to make changes.

Mayor Dave Augustyn said the Foss Rd. problem could tie into a rural roads study soon.

Community and infrastructure director Kelly Walsh said staff would look at the area. It would use stop sign guidelines as well as the it to the rural roads study. Staff will begin to reach back to

community and area they can help the Foss Rd. residents.

"As you have just seen setting the speed limit at 60, doesn't mean they will drive at 60," said Walsh.

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NIAGARA REGIONAL EXHIBITION: Baby contest

Fair-est babies

ALLAN BENNER
PelhamNews Staff

third.
• Boys under six months:
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DeVries, second; Matthew
Barnes, third.

• Girls under six months:
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Grace Mackie, second; Nahja
Jae Fairlie, third.

• Boys 6-12 months:
Alec McPherson, first; Zena
Kye Zenga, third.

• Girls 6-12 months:
Rebecca Ann Weeks, first; Leah
Duerden, second; Caleigh
England, third.

• Boys 12-18 months:
Aden Jameson, first; Noah Gansby,
second; Dylan Ford, third.

• Girls 12-18 months:
Ariyana Lynne Caldwell, first;
Reece Rotella, second; Payton
Theibault, third.

• Boys 18-24 months:
Benjamin Savary, first; Brady
Medvin, second; Gavin
Rosenblatt, third.

• Girls 18-24 months:
Eden Grace Menary, first; Ryan
Leigh Walnes, second; Layda
Michele Goldsworthy, third.

• Boys 24-36 months:
Michael Harry Andrews, first;
Christian Gagnon, second;
Liam Pannier, third.

• Girls 24 to 36 months:
Magdalene Obilinsky, first;
Payton Godard, second;
Sophia Heron, third;

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COUNCIL: \$55 fine suggested for failure to clear

Snow Angels sought for snow clearing

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

Snow Angels are in demand for this winter to help seniors and handicapped to clear snow from sidewalks.

Pelham Care will coordinate the program of matching volunteers with those who qualify for assistance. Town council approved adjustments in the snow clearing bylaw, which came in last year, at its meeting

Monday.

For the Snow Angels program, the town will handle administration such as distributing applications and collecting fees.

"Pelham Care will be responsible for the approval or rejection of candidates based on medical conditions and matching the approved registrants with volunteers," said Pelham Care and infrastructure services director Kelly Walsh in his report.

Generally to qualify for

assistance a doctor's note will be required, he said.

Snow Angels would give high school students an opportunity to earn community service hours.

When the snow clearing bylaw came into effect in 2009 and put into effect last winter.

This year Walsh said the town will continue to develop through a second winter of experience.

It has far changed the definition of the end of a storm

to an "effective" end rather than a "substantial" end to improve provision. The width of a cleared area was set at a minimum of 1.2 metres.

Bylaw enforcement officers will continue to give out a warning 24 hours after the end of a snowfall before action is taken.

Staff are recommending a \$55 fine to replace attaching the cost of the town clearing sidewalk to a property tax bill.

It is "similar to other prop-

erty maintenance offences and approximately the same cost as required to provide snow removal services," said Walsh in his report.

He also suggested a chart of estimated costs if the town took over sidewalk clearing in downtown areas.

If suggested any decision should wait until next summer, after road construction work is completed

in Fonthill.

"In the spring/summer of 2011, staff proposes conducting a survey to gather opinions on snow clearing services, the donor system and the potential implementation of a special area charge for enhanced snow clearing services," he said.

wwwcampbell@wellandtribune.ca

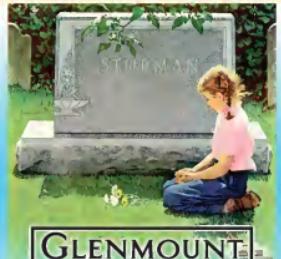
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- Larry Clark

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- Jean Bancroft

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COUNCIL: Educational benefit from permits

Burning permits will cost \$20 in Pelham

WAYNE CAMPBELL
Pelham News Staff

PELHAM - If you want to legally light open fires in Fonthill or Fenwick, you will have to pay a fee.

The town will begin charging a \$20 a year fee for its burning permits.

Since permits were first issued, there has been no fee.

It will help cover administration costs said Fire Chief Scott McLeod including extra time put in by fire prevention volunteer officers at the three fire stations.

It is expected to raise about \$4,000, he said.

In 2010, the fire department issued 182 permits to residents in the urban areas of Fonthill and Fenwick.

During that time it had 13 complaints.

Some came from passing residents seeing a smoke column and phoning in an alarm. Others come from townsfolk who ask for visiting into neighbouring yards sometimes from barbecues.

McLeod said there is an educational a benefit of issuing a permit.

Fire prevention officers can explain what is and what isn't permitted when doing open air burning.

For example, he said in his report projects such as a Clever Cat can break or be placed on wooden decks or other risky places.

Ward 2 Coun. Sharon Cook said about open air burning complaints are prolific

in her ward. Usually it's a matter of smoke blowing onto neighbours.

"If there is smoke, there is usually something wrong," said chief administrative officer office of Ward 1 Coun.

Ward 1 Coun. Jim Lane voted against the fee calling it an additional form of taxation.

Ward 1 Coun. Debbie

Urbanowicz said she was in favour of the recommendation since the town was recouping some of its cost.

She said "\$20 for a year's burning permit is a fair cost."

Town council's general committee voted in favor of the fee at its Monday meeting.

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■ CLUB: 70 years in Welland and 40th book sale

Year of anniversaries for University Women



Supplied Photo

CFUW Welland and District 2010-11 Executive members are: back row from left Marlene Swaze, Ilse Marotta, Brenda Strath, Suzette Taylor, Carol Harding, Annalisa Bottacin, Reggie Smith, Gwenn Alves front row from left Kathy Rose, Diane McPherson, Nancy Gallacher, Jill Jackson (missing was Karen Horton).

For PelhamNEWS

Canadian Federation of University Women Welland and District held its first meeting for the 2010-11 season at the home of Marlene Swaze.

Traditionally this is a social

gathering where former presidents are invited to serve refreshments.

The club has many celebratory events planned for this year as it is the 70th anniversary of its beginning in

Welland in 1941.

It plans to highlight senior members of the club who will reflect on club activities in days gone by.

The Welland and District Club will host the CFUW Fall



Supplied photo

CFUW Welland and District Members Joyce Haines and Becky Hammond share a moment over coffee at a recent meeting.

Conference for Southern Ontario, Northern Ontario and Plans a Locavore theme.

This year marks the club's 40th Book Sale, scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 16, the

Regional Fair Grounds in Welland beginning at 9 a.m.

The club's October meeting will be held at the Plymouth Cordage Retirement Residence, Welland on

Wednesday, Oct. 20, at 7:30 p.m. with guest speaker Tracey McCabe Niagara

Regional Police. New members are always welcome.

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The relation between significant tooth loss and the ability to chew fresh fruits, vegetables and meats, has a great impact on the nutritional value of one's diet. Toothless or partially edentulous individuals are at a higher risk of malnutrition. Edentulous individuals with poor nutrition intake may be at higher risk for a variety of diseases. For example those who consume little vitamin A are at a higher risk for various forms of cancer, heart disease and rheumatoid arthritis. Similarly the dietary deficiencies of vitamin E are associated with various cancers, heart and Parkinson's Disease and low vitamin C and thiamine levels lead to a reduced immune system function, cardiovascular disease, hypertension and nausea, constipation as well as appetite and weight loss. Another ill effect of a low nutrient diet is a loss of muscle mass and strength caused by inadequate intake of protein, which could further increase frailty. An increased intake of fat and cholesterol observed in toothless patients have been associated with obesity, diabetes mellitus, as well as atherosclerosis.

What can I do to prevent any of this happening to me?

Considering the vast implications of a low nutrient diet, it is worth acknowledging that nutritional balance and good health can be significantly improved and restored with the use of a well made denture, and a vitamin supplement regime planned by your doctor. A well made denture, will allow you to introduce back into your diet all the nutritionally loaded foods such as fresh fruits and vegetables, proteins and nuts that were avoided when chewing with an ill-fitting, poorly designed denture. Individuals with implant supported dentures, greatly improve their food choices by including more hard to chew foods that are rich in nutrients, therefore greatly improving their health status.

To switch to a more balanced diet may be as easy as having well fitted dentures, that allow for improved chewing and grinding function. The ability to better chew fruits, vegetables, meats and nuts will increase your nutrient intake and may decrease your risk of various diseases. For more information see your Denturist.

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■ GOLF FUNDRAISER



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff photo

Cousins Terri Windjuck and Ken Windjuck, owner of The Greens of Brock, hold a cheque for \$980 the family raised during a memorial golf tournament at The Greens on the Merrittville Highway in Thorold. The second annual tournament donated proceeds to the Canadian Diabetes Association. The tournament, which began 2009 following the death of Orrie Windjuck in 2008, honours all family members who died. Each year the family picks a charity to receive money raised by tournament fees and half-and-half draws. The mascot Tiger wears Orrie Windjuck's straw hat.



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■ SUZUKI

Economics and politics blind us to reality

FROM PAGE A4

The golden eggs were the economic benefits of logging, which could have been obtained year after year, as long as the goose — the forest — was healthy.

Over and over, we find ourselves racing to get more eggs. In doing so, we end up losing the goose. We do it in agriculture as we use the topsoil created over millennia; we do it in fisheries as our increasing technological power allows us to catch faster; and we do it in northern Alberta as we tear up boreal ecosystems, pollute the water, and inject massive amounts of greenhouse gas into the atmosphere, all to get more of those eggs. And damage.

I thought of another children's tale while listening to the CBC's Peter Mansbridge interview Prime Minister Stephen Harper earlier this year. The prime minister, who Canadians were only concerned about the economy and that Canada's possible involvement with torture in Afghanistan was not a serious concern, Mr. Harper also ignored the massive public demand for leadership on climate change that preceded Copenhagen.

The tale that comes to mind is the story of the emperor who wore no clothes.

Long ago, a vain emperor was very concerned about his appearance. Two crafty tailors promised to make him a fine outfit from material that could not be seen by those who were stupid or unfit for their position. When the

wingers pretended to display samples, the emperor couldn't admit he was unable to see them, for that would be an admission of incompetence or stupidity.

His courtiers and ministers were likewise unable to admit they saw nothing. When the emperor, dressed in the finished outfit, everyone oohed and aahed. Putting on the imaginary clothes, the emperor paraded outside so the public could admire him and his new attire.

Everyone in the crowd, excepted by the rest of the king, was pleased by their desire to be seen as clever and fashionable, remained silent. Only a child, innocent of the claims of the weavers, pointed out the obvious: "The emperor has no clothes."

We are living in a time when ecological degradation is occurring everywhere. B.C.'s northern forests have been ravaged, victims of mountain pine beetles no longer killed by winter that have become too warm.

Farmers know better: it is later birds report birds migrating north two weeks earlier and departing weeks later than normal, competitive skiers tell us European meets are being cancelled for lack of snow. Politicians are receding. Arctic ice is melting — the list goes on.

But where the emperor and his sycophantic subjects were blinded by vanity, we are prevented from seeing by the cloak of economics and politics.

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■ TESTS: Local and provincial comparisons
School boards study test results

JULIE GRECO
QMI AGENCY

New data released Wednesday are helping Niagara school boards determine where students need improvement and where they make the grade.

With 2009-10 assessments now available from the Education Quality and Accountability Office, both District School Board of Niagara and Niagara Catholic District School Board are comparing their results with provincial standards, and with their own numbers from previous years.

EQAO results are made available to boards across the province annually. They are the results of yearly tests in all publicly funded Ontario schools in reading, writing and math in grades 3, 6, 8 and a math assessment in Grade 9 and the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test.

Carol Germyn, DSBN superintendent of school support services, said she is pleased with the increase in success over time.

Niagara public board students surpassed provincially results in Grade 3 reading and matched them for Grade 6 reading.

While the board's results lagged behind the province's average when it came to most tests — including Grade 3 writing and math, Grade 6 writing and math and Grade 9 math — Germyn said it is more important to examine trends over time.

"The biggest factor in our board is our number of small schools. Some of our elementary schools only have about 10 kids in the class writing the Grade 3 test," she said. "With such a small sample size, just one or two students can really skew the results."

Germyn noted several achievements after comparing 2009-10 numbers with past results.

For example, there was a three percentage point increase in its Grade 3 reading assessment over last year (2008-09) — marking a four percentage point improvement compared to the 2006-07 results.

She also pointed out that Grade 3 writing scores have

increased six percentage points over four years (from 61% in 2006-07 to 67% in 2009-10), and Grade 9 reading results jumped 12 percentage points — from 60% in 2006-07 to 72% last year.

In Grade 9, 75% of students matched or exceeded the provincial standard for the academic math assessment — a five percentage point increase from last year and a 10 point increase from four years ago.

And, she noted, the gender gap is closing in Grade 3.

"Boys and girls are achieving similarly in all Grade 3 assessments."

While there were improvements in several areas, Germyn said she is most concerned about Grade 9 applied math results — 32% for DSBN, compared with 40% for the province.

She is also concerned about the second-grade gap at the secondary level.

"The boys are 14% higher than girls," she said. "For us, that is going to be an area of focus."

Niagara Catholic board education director John Crocco applauded the fact the percentage of students at or above the provincial standard was higher than provincial numbers in nearly every category.

"I'm very pleased with the EQAO results as a whole," he said. "It's great to see our students doing well against Niagara Catholic, and I'm very proud of the program delivery and leadership of teaching staff and principals all year long," he said.

Reading, writing and math achievement in Grade 3 ranged from nine to 11 percentage points higher than for the province.

In Grade 6, Niagara Catholic students were at or above the provincial standard in reading, writing and math.

The Grade 9 applied math program was the only area where Niagara Catholic fared lower than provincially results.

Another finding that sounded alarm bells for Crocco was the achievement gap between males and females in just about every reading and math measure increasing last year.

"EQAO results are just one of multiple measures the board uses to determine ways to improve," he said.